

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Summary

In this Office Action, claims 1-5, 7, 17-21, and 23-25 stand rejected, claims 8-16 are allowed, and claims 6 and 22 are objected to as depending from a rejected claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response, claims 1-5, 17, 20, and 21 have been cancelled, without prejudice, and claims 6 and 22 have been amended to incorporate limitations of their respective base and intervening claims. In addition, claims 7, 18, 23, and 24 have been amended to depend from one of now-allowable claims 6 and 22. Therefore, claims 6-16, 18, 19, and 22-25 now stand in condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Abstract

The Abstract stands objected to for failing to begin on a separate sheet in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.52(b)(4). The amendment to the abstract was previously presented in the paper submitted in response to the December 5, 2005 Office Action, and is herein re-submitted but commencing on a separate sheet. The Abstract now stands in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.52(b)(4).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submits that claims 6, 8-16, and 22 are in condition of allowance. Thus, entry of the offered amendments and early issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,

SCHWABE, WILLIAMSON & WYATT, P.C.

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Pacwest Center, Suite 1900
1211 SW Fifth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: 503-222-9981

/Angela M. Sagalewicz/

Angela M. Sagalewicz, Reg. No. 56,113